

Activities That Require a Special Use Permit

Why Do I Need a Permit?

We want to help ensure that your event or activity runs smoothly and without interference to the use and experience of the Park by the general public, park operations and resource protection. Special Use Permits are generally subject to certain conditions to ensure that the requested activity is appropriate to the area and that it will not reasonably interfere with the use of the park by the general public. Permits also ensure compliance with park regulations, establish a contact person and alert park maintenance and law enforcement rangers of upcoming special events. Please remember that permits do not guarantee space will be available at your selected location.

Contact the Commercial Services Program office at (573) 323-4949 or (573) 323-4864 with any questions. Thank you for choosing Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

Special Events

Special Events are regulated under 36CFR 2.50, NPS-53 and the Ozark National Scenic Riverways Superintendent's Compendium. A Special Use Permit is required for activities or events that provide a benefit to an individual, group or organization, rather than the public at large and may require some degree of management from the National Park Service (NPS) in order to protect park resources and the public interest. Some examples of special events that require permits are: weddings, sporting events, public spectator attractions, festivals, fishing tournaments, ceremonies, races and cultural programs.

First Amendment Activities

Freedom of speech, the press, religion, and assembly are constitutional rights. The courts have recognized that activities associated with the exercise of these rights may be reasonably regulated to protect park resources. Therefore, all first amendment activities require special use permits and NPS may regulate the time, place and the manner in which they are conducted. Some examples of first amendment activities that require permits are: distribution and/or sale of printed matter, political speeches, religious services, public demonstrations or assemblies, and collecting signatures for petitions. No fees or cost recovery.

Commercial Filming, Photography & Audio Recording

It is the policy of the NPS to allow commercial photography, still photography, filming and audio recordings to the fullest extent possible while providing for the protection of park resources and ensuring the enjoyment of those resources by park visitors. Location and cost recovery fees are required. Contact the Commercial Services Program office for additional information regarding filming permits.

Scattering of Ashes

The scattering of cremated human remains ("cremains") within Ozark National Scenic Riverways requires a Special Use Permit. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Commercial Services Program office.

Associated Costs

16 U.S.C. 3a requires parks to recover all costs associated with the issuance of a Special Use Permit. This mandated administrative cost allows each park to recover the time invested in accepting, reviewing and issuing a final permit determination.

The basic, non-refundable application cost for a Special Use Permit at Ozark National Scenic Riverways is \$50.00, made payable to the National Park Service. Depending on the magnitude of your event or activity, some applications may assume additional administrative cost for reviewing your permit, liability insurance, monitoring costs for staff to oversee events, clean up costs or performance bonds. If additional costs are required, you will be notified after we receive your completed written application.

Permit Conditions

To maintain park natural and cultural resources and quality visitor experiences, permit conditions will be included in the approved permit and will be appropriate to the type of activity or event. In addition, the permittee is required to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, and codes as well as park regulations contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Failure to follow any of the conditions listed on your permit may result in revocation of the issued permit and/or issuance of violation notices.

When applying for your Special Use Permit please keep in mind:

- Access for other park visitors must not be impeded. A Special Use Permit is authorization for your event to take place on parklands and does not grant exclusive use of a location or parking area.
- Available parking is limited in some locations and not guaranteed. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. Park in designated areas only. Handicap parking is strictly enforced.
- Please take special care to prevent damage to park resources.
- Support equipment and decoration plans must be discussed with Commercial Services staff prior to issuance of your permit. Consider using the scenery of Ozark National Scenic Riverways as your backdrop.
- Special Use Permit requests may be denied at specific locations due to resource protection or during periods of heavy use (holidays, summer weekends).
- Affixing directional signs to existing buildings, property, signs, poles or plants is not allowed. Please respect the uncluttered views of the park. Provide your guests or participants with written directions or maps.
- Permittee will assume all responsibility for cleanup of the site after the event or activity.
- The Federal government, its agents, and employees, cannot be held liable for property damage, bodily injury, or death caused by the permittee's use of park lands in connection with the permit and permittee agrees to pay the NPS for any costs incurred associated with any claims.
- Ozark National Scenic Riverways retains the right to restrict permit activities or close any areas during emergencies, government shutdowns or park closures, floods, weather or seasonal conditions or other unforeseen situations.

Requests for a permit application may be made in person at park headquarters, via telephone, email or fax. The application form may be downloaded from the park website. A completed application and the non-refundable application fee are required before an application can be processed. Park contact information:

Commercial Services Program
Ozark National Scenic Riverways
P. O. Box 490
Van Buren, MO 63965

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